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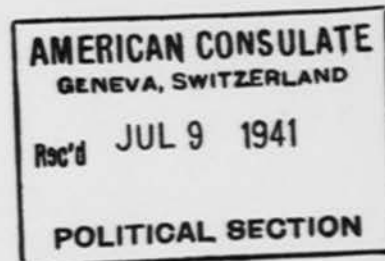
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Pl. General

(Communicated to the Council
and the Members of the League.)

Official No. C.162.M.147.1940.XI.

Geneva, December 15th, 1940.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC IN OPIUM
AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Held at Geneva from May 13th to 17th, 1940.

Series of League of Nations Publications

XI. OPIUM AND OTHER
DANGEROUS DRUGS

1941.XI.1.

previous tables, but in a more concise and clearer form. The footnotes had also been shortened and those found unnecessary discarded.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the present tables were extremely clear and very valuable.

SIXTH MEETING (PUBLIC)

Held on Thursday, May 16th, 1940, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: M. DELGORGE (Netherlands)

Present: The members of the Committee, except the representatives of Belgium, United Kingdom, Canada, India, Turkey, Yugoslavia and the Assessor.

EXAMINATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

Dr. HOO Chi-Tsai (China) made the following declaration:

My statement will be divided into two parts: Part I will deal with the work of my Government in the matter of suppressing the abuse of narcotic drugs since the Committee's last session, while Part 2 will describe the situation in those areas which, because of the Japan-

ese invasion, are not under the Chinese Government's control. Naturally, the information which I shall give you will be more recent than that contained in the Annual Report for 1938.

Work of the Chinese Government in the matter of suppressing the abuse of narcotic drugs.

Since the present war in China began in July 1937, I have already had occasion, at the two sessions of the Advisory Committee which have been held since, to assure you of my Government's unshakeable determination to continue its campaign against narcotic drugs notwithstanding the disturbances caused by hostilities and the enormous new tasks which they lay upon us. At the present session I can with equal conviction renew the assurances already given to you, namely, that the war will make no difference to our resolution to combat the abuse of narcotic drugs and carry through our six-year plan for the suppression of the opium-smoking habit, and of opium-poppy growing. On the contrary, the war has increased our determination to emancipate our people from the century-old scourge of opium addiction. It is one of the most marked features of the present hostilities that they are not only a war for the liberation of our territory but a struggle for the regeneration of our nation and the reconstruction of our country. Consequently, our war against Japan must of necessity also be a war against opium and other narcotic drugs. I need only mention to you some of the more characteristic slogans used by us in our anti-drug campaign in order to illustrate what I have just said. They include such slogans as: "Opium and other drugs must be abolished before our nation can be regenerated", "Opium suppression forms part of the Government's policy for the protection of our peasants", "To succeed in our war of resistance and in the reconstruction of our country it is essential to abolish opium and other drugs"

sufficient capital resources obtain their goods wholesale in Shanghai.

The situation in this district of Min Chiuan is repeated more or less in all the areas under Japanese occupation. For some years past other members of the Committee besides myself have described a similar state of affairs in other parts of China, more particularly in Manchuria. The Committee cannot, therefore, be surprised by the facts which I am relating to-day.

As regards smoking-opium and opium-poppy growing, the situation in the occupied areas may be defined as follows: wherever they go the Japanese authorities encourage poppy-growing and set up an opium monopoly which sells the drug to anyone wishing to buy it with no restrictions whatsoever except the smoker's ability to pay. This is corroborated by all the information which I possess and which comes from the various occupied provinces. These provinces, like Anhwei, Hupeh and Honan, where poppy-growing had been prohibited by the Chinese Government as far back as 1934, have begun to produce opium again. Often the Japanese distribute poppy seed to the peasants, sometimes they literally compel them to sow the poppy plant. In the province of Suiyan, for instance, the Japanese force the peasants to pay their land tax in opium at the rate of 30 taels of opium per mow so that the peasants are obliged to grow the opium in order to pay their taxes. The production in Suiyuan has already increased to such a degree that most of its opium crop is sold in Peiping and Tientsin whence some of it is shipped abroad. A company called "The Mongolian Opium Company" has been formed by the Japanese army and the Mongolian puppet Government and holds the monopoly for the opium traffic in Suiyuan and Chahar. Its head office was established at Kalgan and branches were opened in

the towns in these provinces occupied by the Japanese. Representatives were sent to all the large villages. The whole opium crop has to be sold to this company at very low prices fixed by it and is then resold by the Company for twice as much.

At Hankow in the province of Hupeh a special Commission has been set up to encourage and extend poppy-growing in Central China. The Hankow Japanese authorities have even selected sites covering a total area of 200,000 mow where the poppy plant has to be grown by the peasants under the direct supervision of the authorities.

We have succeeded in obtaining a copy of a proclamation by the Japanese occupation authorities exhorting the population to grow the poppy plant. This proclamation, which I shall hand over to the Secretariat*, comes from the Shui Yeh district in the province of Honan. It reads in translation as follows:

"As it is now autumn, the season for sowing opium-poppy seed, villagers are hereby informed that they must sow the seed in good time. When the poppy is ripe it may, after payment of the statutory taxes, be sold at the current rate freely and without restrictions. It is important therefore to sow the seed immediately and not miss the season.

The Pacification Detachment of the
Japanese Army at Shuiweh."

In districts other than that to which this proclamation refers,

* See document O.C.1788.

VI. SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST RESPECTING THE CLANDESTINE
MANUFACTURE OF AND THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS.
(C.L.197.1938.XI. of October 27th, 1938, and C.L.29.
1940.XI. of March 7th, 1940).

The Progress Report for last year gave the text of the resolutions with which the Advisory Committee concluded its important discussions on the situation in the Far East during its twenty-second session (May-June, 1937) and its twenty-third session (May-June, 1938), and the text on this subject of the report by the Rapporteur to the Council adopted on September 17th, 1938 (102nd session of the Council), and lastly the text of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on September 29th, 1938 (nineteenth session).

The Secretary-General brought the above-mentioned decisions of the Advisory Committee, the Council, and the Assembly to the knowledge of Governments by circular letter of October 27th, 1938 (C.L.197.1938.XI.), and requested them to take the most vigorous action with a view to remedying the situation which had continued to grow worse. The replies to the circular letter were also analysed in the Progress Report for last year.

The Secretariat has since received replies from the following States: Denmark, New Zealand and the United States of America.

The permanent Danish delegate to the League of Nations stated on June 27th, 1939, under instructions from his Government, that, in the opinion of the Danish Government, Denmark, by reason of its geographical position, had no reason for the moment to fear any very

considerable illicit exportation of drugs to China. Regarding the measures taken to prevent Danish subjects from engaging in the clandestine manufacture of and the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs in China, the permanent delegate referred to his note verbale of August 8th, 1938, which was analysed in the Progress Report for last year.

In a letter received on April 21st, 1939, the New Zealand Government state that, as they have no direct interest in the situation which is reported to have arisen in the Far East, they do not wish to make any observations thereon, but assure the Advisory Committee of their desire to co-operate as far as they are able in any steps which may be taken to eliminate the menace of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

The United States Government, in its reply of May 15th, 1939, received on June 1st, 1939, makes the following statement:

"With regard to the facts brought to light by the discussions on the situation in the Far East which took place at Geneva during the Twenty-third Session of the Opium Advisory Committee, the Government of the United States desires to observe that it supports and associates itself with the statements presented by its representative on that occasion.

"It will be recalled that at the ninth meeting of the Committee, on June 13th, 1938, the American representative in the course of his statement, after presenting numerous details in regard to certain illicit shipments of opium into China under Japanese auspices, made the following remarks:

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"I wonder if the Opium Advisory Committee, to whose attention the Japanese representative last year called the newly enacted laws for punishing Japanese who import opium into China or who deal in opium therein, would be willing to suggest to the Japanese representative that these transactions of Japanese subjects in China should be investigated and reported upon even if they cannot be adequately punished?"

"The Japanese representative at the fifteenth meeting of the Committee, on June 21st, having referred the question to his Government for inquiry, reported that he had received a detailed reply, which he proceeded to read. That reply contained the following statements:

"From the investigations made by the Japanese Government, the following conclusions may be drawn:

"1. The North China Provisional Government authorised the import of 428 chests which were covered by the permit issued by the authorities.

"2. Since all other shipments were also covered by the import certificates issued by the importing countries, they were all licit and not illicit transactions.

"3. The Japanese Government considers that all the transactions were carried out in conformity with the stipulations of the existing opium Conventions, and strongly protests against any charge that the Japanese Government is responsible for the

alleged illicit transactions.

"The Government of the United States observes that the Japanese Government, after admitting the importation of large quantities of opium of high morphine content into areas of China under control of its military forces, endeavours to justify such importations as technically permissible under the International Drug Conventions, presumably as a basis for refraining from prosecuting or interfering with the Japanese who are concerned in thus building up this serious menace to the rest of the world. The Government of the United States holds that the Japanese Government shares with the American Government and with other governments the well-recognised obligations under the International Drug Conventions to control the production and distribution of raw opium, to render effective the limitation of manufacture of narcotic drugs to the world's legitimate requirements for medical and scientific purposes, to use its efforts to control or to cause to be controlled all those who manufacture, import, sell, distribute and export narcotic drugs, and to co-operate in other ways provided for in those Conventions. The actions in reference to narcotic drugs of the régimes which have been established in those areas of China controlled by Japanese military forces cannot be regarded as limiting the manufacture or controlling the distribution of narcotic drugs

"In a further statement at the fifteenth meeting of the Committee on June 21st, 1938, the American representative presented information in regard to the reported arrival at Macao of an armed Japanese vessel carrying over 2,000 chests of raw Iranian opium and said:

* See Minutes of the Twenty-second Session of the Committee, (document C.315.I.211.1937.XI. (page 64).